

We Claim:

Sub A1 1. A method of providing uninterrupted digital communications between a central office and a customer premises comprising the following steps:

placing a local loop generation mechanism in series with a communications path between the central office and the customer;

placing a frequency-selective filter in parallel with the local loop generation mechanism to provide a bypass path across the local loop generation mechanism.

2. A system for providing uninterrupted digital communications between a central office and a customer premises for use in conjunction with a local loop generation mechanism placed in series with a communications path between the central office and the customer;

the system CHARACTERIZED BY:

a frequency-selective filter placed in parallel with the local loop generation mechanism so as to provide a bypass path across the local loop generation mechanism.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein the frequency selective filter is adapted to pass at least those frequencies which carry digital information.

4. The system of claim 3 wherein the frequency selective filter is a high-pass filter.

5. The system of claim 3 wherein the frequency selective filter is a bandpass filter.

6. The system of claim 3 further providing an electromechanical connection mechanism for the local loop generation mechanism and the frequency selective filter.

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7. The system of claim 6 wherein the connection mechanism is an RJ71C terminal block.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein the RJ71C terminal block is organized into a first portion and a second portion, the first portion providing one or more connections to a customer premises and the second portion providing one or more connections to a central office.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the frequency selective filter is connected across the first and second portions of the RJ71C terminal block.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein the first portion of the RJ71C terminal block is coupled to a splitting mechanism adapted to provide the customer premises with a voice communications port and a data communications port.

11. The system of claim 3 wherein the communications path is adapted to convey digital signals and voice information.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein the voice information is conveyed over the communications path as a baseband signal.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the baseband signal occupies a first portion of the electromagnetic spectrum and the data signals occupy a second portion of the electromagnetic spectrum.

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14. The system of claim 13 wherein baseband signals are limited to an approximate frequency range of about 20 Hz to about 3.3 KHz, and digital signals are allowed to occupy frequencies above about 20 KHz.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the frequency selective filter is provided in the form of a high-pass and/or bandpass filter.

16. A frequency-selective method for allowing interruption of communications within a first frequency range on a communications path while maintaining communications within a second frequency range on the communications path, comprising the steps of:

providing the communications path; and
placing a frequency selective filter in parallel with the communications path.

17. A frequency-selective method for allowing interruption of communications within a first frequency range on a communications path while maintaining communications within a second frequency range on the communications path, comprising the steps of:

- (a) placing a local loop generation mechanism in series with the communications path; and
- (b) placing a frequency selective filter in parallel with the local loop generation mechanism.